

# Montana's Grassland Complexes



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**Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks**









# Montana's Grassland Complex

- Interconnection of Climate, Soils, Plants, Animals and Processes
- Characteristically dominated by grasses and the lack of shrubs and trees



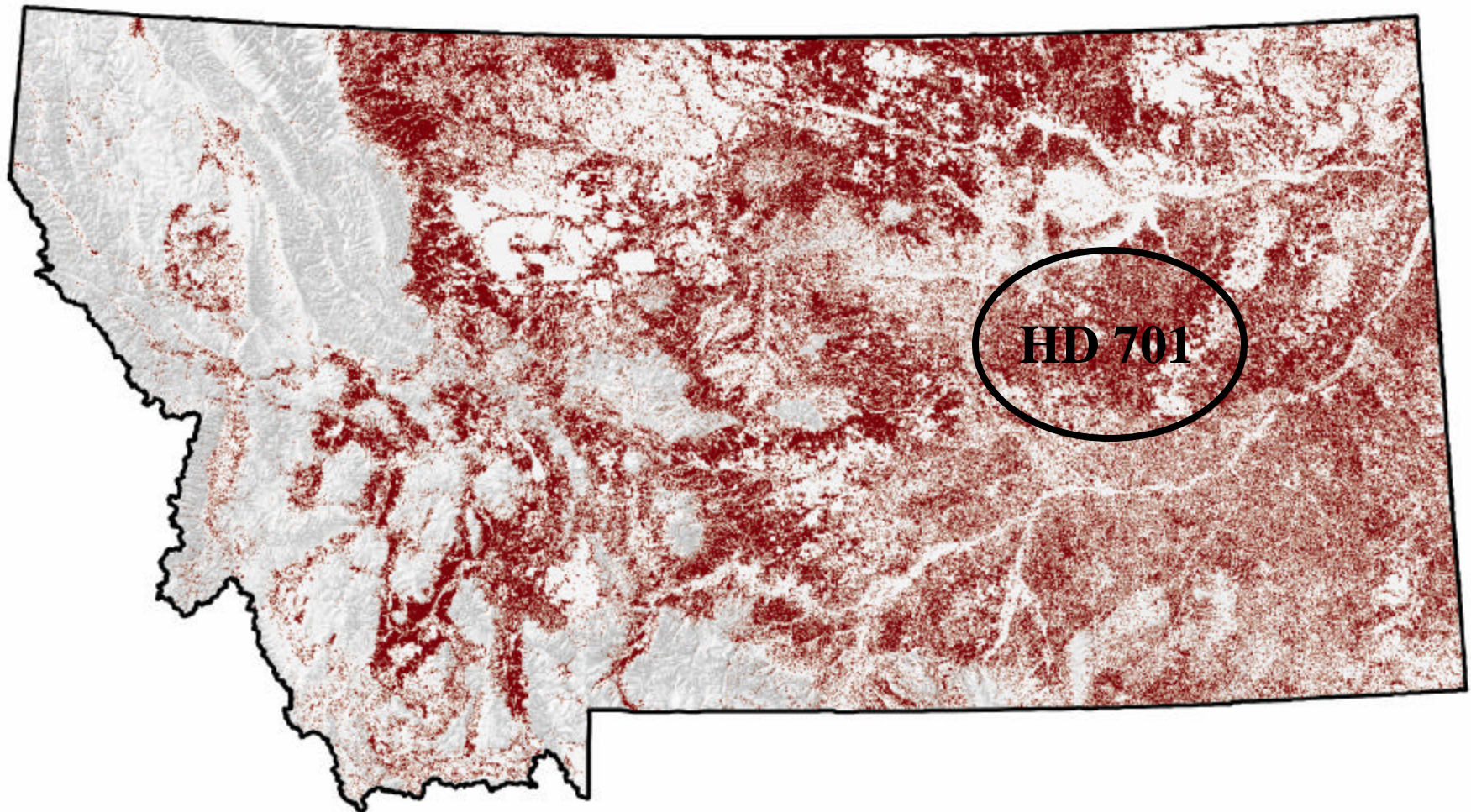
# Grassland Complex (Description)

- 31,551,627 acres (34% of MT)
- 358 Terrestrial Wildlife Species
- 25 Fish and Mussels





# Grassland Complex (Location)



# Grassland Complex (Value)

- 2003 \$2.1 million spent on deer and antelope hunting in District 701
- 2003 same counties produced 176,000 head of cattle





# **Grassland Complex**

## **(Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy)**

- **Four Components (Focus Areas, Community Types, Species, Inventory)**
- **Identified Tier I (In Greatest Need of Conservation)**





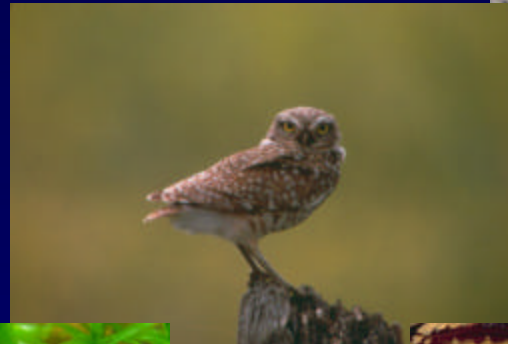
# Grassland Complex Need

- Identified as Tier I (in greatest need of conservation)
- Supports more Tier I Species than any other Community (33 species)



# Grassland Complex Need

- N. Leopard Frog
- Milksnake
- Sage Grouse
- Burrowing Owl
- Townsend's Bat
- Pearl Dace





# Grassland Complex Restoration Opportunity

## Conservation Concern

Energy Development

Habitat Fragmentation

## Restoration Opportunity

Reclamation

Agricultural Viability  
Easements, LIP, Help with  
Weeds, Culvert Replacement



# Grassland Complex Restoration Benefit

- Hunting and Fishing
- Other outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, wildlife watching, camping
- Leads to desirable areas to live in, relocate to, start a business in, or visit





# Grassland Complexes

- Grasslands are a complex of things
- There are real economic and environmental opportunities and benefits related to restoration
- Must work together to leverage funds from multiple sources and programs

